Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Wednesday 06 Dec 2023 until 23:59 on Thursday 07 Dec 2023

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 06 Dec 2023 at 02:06

Confidence: High confidence at first, becoming moderate for the low pressure arriving on Thursday.

Headline for Wednesday 06 Dec 2023: Largely dry with bright or sunny skies, cloud and rain arriving later in the evening.

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 06 Dec 2023

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Gales
Medium Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
No Likelihood

Severe chill effect
High Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Poor visibility
No Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Partly cloudy (night)	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Light snow	Heavy snow
Precipitation probability					
<05%	<05%	<05%	20%	20%	40%

Forecast for Wednesday 06 Dec 2023

Weather: Dry with largely clear skies overnight. Staying dry during the day with bright or sunny skies, with high cloud at times. Winds increasing during the afternoon, with low cloud feeding in from the west during the evening. Rain, snow above around 500m at first, arriving late evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 90% reducing to 20% late evening

Low cloud and visibility: Scattered or broken low cloud base 500-700m pushing in from the west late evening. Visibility good or very good for much of the day, moderate in rain and poor in snow later.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Wednesday 06 Dec 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	17/25 SE	22/30 SE	28/37 SE	35/44 SE	37/46 SE	43/53 SE	46/57 SE
600	24/34 SE	29/41 SE	30/42 SE	32/46 SE	32/46 SE	31/43 SE	34/48 SE
300	7/20 S	10/26 SE	12/28 SE	14/34 SE	14/36 SE	13/35 SE	16/40 SE
Valley	5/19 E	8/22 SE	7/19 SE	8/24 SE	12/30 SE	11/30 SE	14/33 SE

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-0/-7	-1/-8	-2/-10	-1/-10	-1/-10	-2/-11	-1/-11
600	0/-7	-0/-8	-0/-8	-1/-9	-1/-9	-0/-9	0/-8
300	0/-4	1/-4	2/-3	2/-3	2/-4	2/-3	2/-3
Valley	2/-1	2/-2	4/1	4/1	4/-1	4/-0	4/0
Freezing Level*	200m	200m	300m	400m	400m	600m	800m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Feeling very cold, especially at height and in strong winds later, be prepared with appropriate layers.

Forecast for Thursday 07 Dec 2023

Weather: Heavy rain, snow at first above around 500m, spreading northeast from the early hours, easing and becoming patchy from around dawn for much of the morning, before further heavy rain arrives from the southwest during the afternoon. Drier with clear spells into the evening. Strong winds throughout.

Maximum wind: Southeasterly 25-35 mph, gusting 45-55 mph

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 20% increasing to 60% during the evening

Low cloud and visibility: Scattered or broken low cloud base 500-700m, lowering to 400m at times during the morning, becoming few by late evening. Visibility moderate in rain, poor in early snow or hill fog, good during drier interludes.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 4 to 7 Celsius
At 800m: Zero to plus 2 Celsius
Freezing level: 500m during the early hours, soon lifting above summits

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Tuesday 5 December 2023 Location: Helvellyn summit at 13:11 Full report: Any early cloud gradually broke up to leave a fantastic 'alpine-like' day in the Lakeland fells with significant accumulations of new snow which fell overnight. Towards the end of daylight hours, the snowline was down to around 500m, although ice is also present on the paths below this height (particularly around any drainage lines). Microspikes and walking poles are very useful from this elevation upwards, and particularly in descent. Above 500m, the depth of the snow increases with height, and at 700m it is widely between shin and knee-deep, with drifts over 1 meter deep not uncommon. Almost all of the paths are completely covered above 500m making route finding and navigation very challenging in any poor visibility. Whiteout conditions could be a risk tomorrow. It's also worth noting that some water features may also be buried under deep snow. Cornices that typically form around Helvellyn's north and east-facing corrie rims remain fairly small due to recent prevailing winds from the northeast. However, potentially unstable windslab is present in these locations (and on slopes with a similar slope aspect and angle), and these areas should be given a wide berth. With subzero temperatures, strong winds, and the potential for further snowfall tomorrow, anyone heading out should anticipate very challenging conditions and be suitably clothed and equipped and possess the necessary skills to look after themselves. Warm and waterproof clothing (plus spare warm layers), hats and gloves, a map, compass, headtorch, and goggles (for navigating in windy conditions) are all essential. As previously mentioned, microspikes and walking poles are very useful and crampons and an ice axe are essential if attempting routes on steep and exposed ground. Temperature: minus 2.0 C Maximum wind speed 20 mph Wind chill: minus 9.3 C Average wind speed: 14 mph.

Issued at: 02:06 on Wed 06 Dec 2023

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